

**CURRENT STATUS OF CLAIMS WITH CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. **(Previously presented)** A method of diagnosing Crohn's disease in a subject, comprising determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-outer membrane protein C (anti-OmpC) antibodies in said subject, where the presence of said IgA anti-OmpC antibodies indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

2. **(Currently amended)** A method of diagnosing Crohn's disease in a subject, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a sample from a subject suspected of having inflammatory bowel disease;

(b) contacting the sample with an OmpC antigen, or reactive fragment thereof, under conditions suitable to form a complex of the OmpC antigen, or reactive fragment thereof, and IgA anti-OmpC antibody [antibody to the OmpC antigen];

(c) contacting said complex with a labeled anti-IgA antibody to form a labeled complex; and

(d) detecting the presence or absence of said labeled complex, thereby determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies,

where the presence of said IgA anti-OmpC antibodies in said subject indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

3. **(Currently amended)** A method of diagnosing Crohn's disease in a subject, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a sample from a subject suspected of having inflammatory bowel disease with an OmpC antigen, or reactive fragment thereof, under conditions suitable to form a complex of the OmpC antigen, or reactive fragment thereof, and IgA anti-OmpC antibody [antibody to the OmpC antigen], wherein said OmpC antigen comprises [substantially] the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) contacting said complex with a labeled anti-IgA antibody to form a labeled complex; and

(c) detecting the presence or absence of said labeled complex, thereby determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies,

where the presence of said IgA anti-OmpC antibodies in said subject indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein IgA anti-OmpC antibodies are detected with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, further comprising determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-Saccharomyces cerevisiae antibodies (ASCA) in said subject, wherein the presence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies or the presence of IgA ASCA in said subject each independently indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the presence of IgA ASCA is determined by reactivity with purified yeast cell wall phosphopeptidomannan (PPM).

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein said yeast cell wall PPM is prepared from ATCC strain #38926.

8. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 2, further comprising determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-I-2 polypeptide antibodies in said subject, wherein the presence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies or the presence of IgA anti-I-2 polypeptide antibodies in said subject each independently indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

9. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 8, wherein the presence of IgA anti-I-2 polypeptide antibodies is determined by IgA reactivity with an I-2 polypeptide having substantially the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

10. **(Withdrawn)** A method of diagnosing Crohn's disease in a subject, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies in said subject;

(b) determining the presence or absence of IgA ASCA in said subject;

(c) determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-I-2 polypeptide antibodies in said subject,

where the presence of said IgA anti-OmpC antibodies, the presence of IgA ASCA or the presence of IgA anti-I-2 polypeptide antibodies each independently indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 10, further comprising determining the presence or absence of perinuclear anti-neutrophil antibodies (pANCA) in said subject.